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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Colombia*: draft resolution

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 M of 12 December 1995,

Emphasizing the importance of observing environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing the need that the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and prior relevant agreements, be duly taken into account in the drafting and implementation of the agreements on disarmament and arms limitations,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the Preamble to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 1/ opened for signature on 24 September 1996, concerning the contribution to environmental protection provided by the Treaty,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ A/50/1027.

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, inter alia, to consider effective methods to control radiological means of warfare, in the interest of averting the hazards of using radioactive wastes as a means of radiological warfare, and of their impact on international security and environmental preservation,

Recognizing that prevention of the nuclear arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil contributes to keeping the peace and protecting the environment,

Convinced of the general interest of mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and the need to preserve the world's environment in this context,

Desirous that, in the interest of mankind, Antarctica should continue to be used for exclusively peaceful purposes and that the balance of that important ecosystem be preserved,

Taking note of the environment-related provisions laid down in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Convinced of the importance of strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction through the adoption of appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and the drafting of proposals to be included, as appropriate, into a legally binding instrument, on the basis of the findings of the ad hoc working group set up to that effect, and which, inter alia, should take into account the necessity of ensuring the preservation of the environment,

Conscious that the international transfer of relevant technologies, services and know-how for peaceful purposes can contribute positively to abiding by environmental norms in the framework of the disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

1. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to take every necessary measure to include the relevant environmental norms and provisions in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, taking into account the need to preserve the world's environment and to ensure the strict observance of such environmental norms and provisions during the entire process of implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned treaties and agreements, particularly during the process of destruction of the arms covered by them;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention, as well as express provisions relating to environmental protection;

3. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States and for preserving the environment;

4. Urges States parties to comply strictly with the provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof, and calls on States that possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that have not yet done so, to become parties to the Treaty, as a major contribution to international peace and the ecologically rational use of the environment;

5. Calls upon all States, especially those that have major space programmes, to contribute actively to the attainment of the goal of using outer space for peaceful purposes and preserving the world's environment, of the prevention of the arms race in outer space and - for the sake of international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation - to refrain from acting counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

6. Welcomes the concrete measures taken by several countries to ensure compliance with the Antarctic Treaty, and calls upon all countries to refrain from carrying out any activity counter to the spirit of such international legal instrument;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the compliance by all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and calls upon them to cooperate and preserve the environment in the process of the implementation of the Convention in all its relevant aspects;

8. Urges States parties to consider all the relevant norms related to the protection of the environment in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

9. Calls upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment and its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of the agreements on disarmament and arms control".